

ACT NO. 7335

BILL NO. 29-0070

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

Regular Session

2011

An Act honoring and commending the late "Captain Svend Aage Ovesen Jr. posthumously and naming the seaplane terminal located in Watergut, Christiansted, St. Croix in his honor

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WHEREAS, the late Svend Aage Ovesen, Jr., was born on January 6, 1942, in Frederiksted, St. Croix to Svend and Josephine Lee Ovesen; and

WHEREAS, Svend Aage Ovesen, Jr., was the first of three children born to Svend and Josephine Ovesen; his brother Hans and sister Jerilyn were the other children; and

WHEREAS, Svend Aage Ovesen, Jr., and his brother Hans, and sister, Jerilyn, grew up around Frederiksted, St. Croix in the area locally called "Pond Bush"; and

WHEREAS, Svend Aage Ovesen, Jr., attended Lutheran Kindergarten, the Frederiksted Public Grammar School, the Frederiksted Junior High School up to the 8th grade, and completed his high school education at the *Colegio San Justo* in Saint Just, Puerto Rico, where he excelled at his studies and also learned to speak Spanish fluently; and

WHEREAS, Svend Aage Ovesen, Jr., upon graduation from *Colegio San Justo* in Saint Just, Puerto Rico, joined the United States Navy and completed his tour of duty as Third Class Petty Officer in Communications; and

WHEREAS, Svend Aage Ovesen, Jr., joined Pan-American World Airways as an operations and communications agent in 1963. He moved through the ranks and was quickly promoted to the position of General Manager and later to the position of Director of Pan-American World Airways. He was the first native Virgin Islander to serve in this position until 1976 when Pan-Am closed its operations on St. Croix; and

WHEREAS, Svend Aage Ovesen, Jr., in 1976 used this opportunity to pursue his dream of becoming a pilot. He earned his license to operate single and multiple engine planes as well as seaplanes and continued pilot training with Flight Safety International from 1978 to 1998; and

WHEREAS, Svend Aage Ovesen, Jr., in 1978 began his professional career as a pilot flying for various airlines including the Antilles Airboats, a commuter seaplane service in the Caribbean. Svend became the first native-born Virgin Islander sea-plane Captain piloting both the Mallard and Grumman Goose aircrafts at Antilles Airboats; and

WHEREAS, Svend Aage Ovesen, Jr., continued flying seaplanes part time with V. I. Seaplane Shuttle until 1989 when Hurricane Hugo devastated St. Croix; and

WHEREAS, Svend Aage Ovesen, Jr., in 1977 became the first native-born General Manager of Marriott In-flight Catering Services. When Cater-Air, Inc. took over Marriott, he continued as the General Manager until 1992; and

WHEREAS, Svend Aage Ovesen, Jr., in 1992 started flying as a full-time pilot for Atlantic Tele-Network Aviation, where he became Chief Pilot until 1998; and

WHEREAS, Svend Aage Ovesen, Jr., along with Co-Pilot Irvine Clifford entered their names in the annals of aviation by setting two speed records from the controls of an IAI Astra Aj25 jet on April 17, 1995, from St. Croix to New York City, with an average speed of 380.8 miles per hour (612.86 kilometers per hour) and on April 20, 1995, a second record was set from Boca Raton, Florida to Christiansted, St. Croix, with an average speed of 477.9 miles per hour (769.13 kilometers per hour). Captain Ovesen and Co-Pilot Clifford set a Speed Over a Recognized Course record established by the *Fédération Aéronautique Internationale* (FAI), the world air sport and record organization based in Paris, France. The air-speed records have been submitted as national VI records, and to FAI as world records for planes of similar type and size; and

WHEREAS, Svend Aage Ovesen, Jr., saw the opportunity to launch his own airline charter company and in 1998 along with his wife, Alfreda Smith Ovesen, started Crucian International Airline. On Christmas Day of that year they returned to St. Croix with their own aircraft, a Mitsubishi MU2 , an executive style, eight-seater aircraft; and

WHEREAS, Svend Aage Ovesen, Jr., in March 1999 became one of the principal and founding members of the St. Croix Air Park. The business continued to grow as did Captain Ovesen's reputation as a reliable and trusted pilot. Clients would call Captain Ovesen at anytime to charter a flight; and

WHEREAS, Svend Aage Ovesen, Jr., had many other interests in addition to a lifelong passion for flying. He was an avid sportsman. He played both baseball and softball. As a softball pitcher he was known as "Sweetwater". He coached both his sons' and his daughter's Little League teams; and

WHEREAS, Svend Aage Ovesen, Jr., also enjoyed spear fishing, swimming and tennis. He cherished time spent with his children Kelvin, Karole, Svend, III, Kraigg, Hans and Gerald along with other family children and friends. He taught them to swim at Sandy Point, hike in the Rain Forest and along the north shore of St. Croix to Annaly Bay, and many other things; and

WHEREAS, Svend Aage Ovesen, Jr., was a dedicated father, son, brother, grandfather and friend. He developed a reputation for his culinary skills, especially his breakfast-making and barbecuing techniques; and

WHEREAS, Svend Aage Ovesen, Jr., was a consummate professional. He was impeccable in everything he undertook, especially flying aircrafts. He always spent time talking about flying and sharing his knowledge with fellow pilots; and

WHEREAS, Svend Aage Ovesen, Jr., along with his wife, Alfreda, in 2001 decided to expand their flight operations to include medical evacuation services. It was on such a mission of mercy that Captain Ovesen's fatal accident occurred on Monday, April 15th 2002; Now, Therefore,

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:

SECTION 1. The Legislature of the Virgin Islands, on behalf of the people of the Virgin Islands, posthumously honors and commends Captain Svend Aage Ovesen, Jr. for his dedicated and outstanding service to our community in aviation.

SECTION 2. In honor of Captain Svend Aage Ovesen, Jr., for his outstanding accomplishments as a captain of various aircrafts and as a pioneer in aviation, the seaplane terminal located in Water Gut, in Christiansted, on the island of St. Croix is named "The Captain Svend Aage Ovesen, Jr. Seaplane Terminal".

SECTION 3. The Virgin Islands Port Authority shall erect an appropriate sign at the entrance of the seaplane terminal containing an inscription that reads: "The Captain Svend Aage Ovesen, Jr. Seaplane Terminal".

SECTION 4. The President of the Legislature or the President's designee shall present to Mrs. Alfreda Smith Ovesen a perma plaque copy of this Act at the appropriate ceremony.

Thus passed by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands on December 15, 2011.

Witness our Hands and Seal of the Legislature of the Virgin Islands this 16th
Day of December, A.D., 2011.



Ronald E. Russell

Ronald E. Russell
President

Sammuel Sanes

Sammuel Sanes
Legislative Secretary



Bill No. 29-0070 is hereby approved.

Witness my hand and the Seal of the
Government of the United States
Virgin Islands at Charlotte Amalie,
St. Thomas, this 20th day of December,
A.D., 2011.


John P. de Jongh, Jr.
Governor